

Minutes of the AGM held on 18th April 2013 at British Horseracing Authority, London at 11.00am

In Attendance:

Carol Boulton (Association of British Riding Schools) CB
Kath Urwin (The Blue Cross) KU
Ruth Court (The Blue Cross) RC
Stephanie Evans (British Driving Society) SE
Brig. Paul Jepson (BEVA) PJ
Sandra Lawrence (British Skewbald & Piebald) SL
Lynda Lodge (British Skewbald & Piebald) LL
Carol Morse (Donkey Breed Society) CM
Martin Taggart (The Donkey Sanctuary and NEWC Management Board) MT
Sandra Mansell (Exmoor Pony & RBST) SM
Kay Brandist (HAPPA) KB
Amanda Berry (HAPPA) AB
Rebecca Evans (Horses4homes & NEWC Vice-Chair) RE
Lindsay Plant (Horse Rescue Fund) LP
Jackie Crook (Horse Rescue Fund) JC
Jerry Watkins (Horseworld) JW
Dr Carol Hall (Nottingham Trent University) CH
Jayney Caspar (Nottingham Trent University) JC
Sarah Holton (Racehorse Owners Association) SH
Di Arbutnot (Retraining of Racehorses) DA
Lynn Cutress (Redwings) LC
Nicolas De Brauwere (Redwings and NEWC Chairman) NDB
Rachel Angell (Redwings) RA
Steve Carter (RSPCA) SC
Kia Thomas (RSPCA) KT
Joanne Haylock (SEIB) JH
David Buckton (SEIB) DB1
Jenny MacGregor (Society for the Welfare of Horses & Ponies) JMG
Sian Lloyd (Society for the Welfare of Horses & Ponies) SL
Pauline Grant (Sussex Horse Rescue Trust) PG
Wendy Gundry (Sussex Horse Rescue Trust) WG
Lee Hackett (The British Horse Society and NEWC Management Board) LH
Sian Ellis (The Horse Trust) SE
Jeanette Allen (The Horse Trust) JA
Michael Davis (Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre) MD
Tony Tyler (World Horse Welfare) TT
David Boyd (World Horse Welfare and NEWC Management Board) DB
Dr Harry Greenway (NEWC President) HG
Sam Taylor (NEWC Administrator) ST
Professor Jacqui Mathews (Moredun Research Institute) JM
Natalie Sim (University of Glasgow – Student) NS

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GENERAL MEETING

Welcome and Apologies

The meeting commenced at 11.00am and HG welcomed everyone to The British Horseracing Association and thanked all those present for attending.

1. Apologies for Absence

Charlie Nevison (Anglia Ruskin University)
Peter Webbon (Animal Health Trust)
David Mountford (BEVA)
Philip York (Bransby Horses)
Sandra Pilkington (British Connemara's)
Iain Graham (British Showjumping)
John Rolling (Canterbury Horse Rescue)
Georgina Dale (Dartmoor Livestock)
Katherine Thompson (Equine Grass Sickness Fund)
Pamela Bluck (HACK)
Grace Muir (HEROS)
Emma Kurrels (Lluest)
Pat Hartley (Mill House Animal Sanctuary)
Bipin Thaker (SEIB & NEWC Treasurer)
Mary King (NEWC Vice President)
Wendy Ahl (Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land)
Fay Allan-Bunting (South Hants Horse & Pony Protection Group)
Sue Pike (SPEAR)
Petra Ingram (The Brooke)
Carolyn Madgwick (Trading Standards)
Mary Henley-Smith (Moorcroft)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

HG asked all present to go through the previous meetings minutes page by page and requested all present make a show of hands regarding the minutes of the previous meeting. All members in attendance felt they were an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

PJ asked if there had been any further news in relation to ragwort infested bale of hay noted at the previous meeting in November 2012, NDB gave all present a brief update. Apart from that item all members present felt there were no matters arising since the previous meeting.

4. Annual Report & 2012 Accounts

Prior to all reading the report NDB wished to thank a number of organisations. Firstly thanks were given to the BHA for providing the venue, refreshments and lunch. Thanks were also given to Bipin Thaker, SEIB, for the time and effort put in towards NEWC as Treasurer. Finally NDB wished to note to all present of the tremendous offer from the BHS in the offer of office space within their building. The current NEWC office's contract is due to expire at the end of June 2013 and the offer of the space at the BHS will save NEWC a substantial amount on a yearly basis. On behalf of all the Management Board and NEWC member organisations NDB asked LH to pass on their thanks to the new CEO at the BHS, Lynn Petersen.

HG then asked all present to read through the report page by page and requested questions from the membership if there was anything they needed clarification on. No major items were raised from the report. RE made reference to the Legacy payment made to NEWC in 2012 as she felt it needed to be classed as something else instead of being under 'donations' as this suggested it was a donation from a member organisation. JA was in agreement that it should be a separate item within the accounts. DB1 stated that he would ask Bipin to amend the accounts accordingly.

NDB noted that it was important to ensure that during the next 12 months NEWC keeps on moving forward positively. SC noted to all present that he had approached the BHA prior to Aintree to see about the possibility of having a stand at the Grand National. This request was granted and the stand that was made available was small but very prominent in the ground. Having the RSPCA working with the BHA towards welfare was a good move forward. SC was hopeful that he could get the stand again next year with more of the NEWC member organisations involved in the running of it. HG commented that this was a very positive step forward for equine welfare.

The Report and Accounts were offered to the membership and unanimously adopted: JA (The Horse Trust) & Seconded: DB (World Horse Welfare).

HG passed the Chair back to NDB for the remainder of the meeting.

5. NEWC Code of Practice – Update from Martin Taggart

MT explained to the membership present some of the background in regards to the Code of Practice revision and how it links in with the CIC status NEWC is currently in the process of. In relation to the CIC status final approval of the document would shortly be sought from the NEWC Management Board and if no queries were raised it would be placed on the NEWC website for member review /approval. By obtaining CIC status NEWC would then have a legal identity and MT was hopeful that this process would be finalised by June 2013 as long as there were no delays due to the consultation period. In relation to the Code of Practice the only delay here was the need to agree an inspection process of equine holding NEWC members. MT noted that it is important for the credibility of NEWC to show the outside world that we are maintaining checks to back up the NEWC membership that we offer as valuable. The main questions in this process are 1. How do we do it? 2. Who pays for it? MT asked NDB if it would be possible to form a sub-committee to discuss the points needed to move this forward. NDB stated that RE and LH had already had various talks in relation to this so have most of the initial ground work covered. RE noted that she had intended to produce a draft document from the meetings with LH but due to time constraints as yet this had not been done. NDB felt that the discussions between LH and RE could be used as the base for any sub-committee of the membership. RE noted that if funds were available then an online inspection process would be highly beneficial and time saving for all involved. NDB stated that by obtaining NEWC membership it is showing a quality mark and thus the need for having a system in place to enforce this was paramount.

PJ asked how much money obtaining the CIC would cost NEWC and what benefit it would be to NEWC as an organisation. PJ had concerns that NEWC reserved funds may be being used up by the office running costs. NDB apologised for the delay in obtaining Voluntary donations from CEBEC but assured all at the meeting that CEBEC had agreed to continue supporting NEWC and donations would soon be coming in to help cover the running of the office and the

maintaining of projects like the CIC without plundering the restricted funds. NDB also noted that NEWC is looking into additional ways of increasing its income stream as at present it only has a limited pool of resources for funding and by obtaining CIC status it would mean NEWC would be in a better position to apply for grant funding for projects from other organisations. RE noted that NEWC had reduced the costs of the CIC status by not pursuing the Trademark as this could be done at a later date. NDB hoped that year by year he was hoping that NEWC would need less and less support from CEBEC as it improved its income stream.

6. NEWC Statistics 2012 – Mark Kennedy

MK introduced the survey he had produced with the information submitted for 2012 from NEWC member organisations. MK noted to all present that once again there had been a lack of data submitted and was concerned that this was due to members possibly not understanding what was being requested. MK stressed to all present that both himself and the NEWC office were available if anyone needed clarification on any of the questions.

MK noted that NEWC members needed to give their input to either him or the NEWC office as to what sort of information they would like to be included in the survey. This was put to all present at the meeting and two various points were raised during a debate.

- Spare capacity – the current way of just stating space capacity on a set date of 31st December does not give an accurate view – possibly to have four separate data capture points across the year would be more beneficial and then an average figure for each organisation could be achieved and would give a more accurate view.
- It was of general agreement that collecting data linked to each horse could be very beneficial. I.e. horse type, age, area they are coming from. It was felt that this sort of data would be excellent in showing LA's the sort of issues /problems welfare organisations are having. It was also felt that it would be more beneficial to collect this data separately. RE offered to produce a separate survey but MK stressed that it would be imperative for all members to give their commitment to completing the survey otherwise it would be a wasted exercise.

MK asked all present that if they had any additional thoughts regarding data collection in the annual statistics to forward them either directly to himself or the NEWC office. NEWC office to send an email to all members with equines requesting this to ensure that all members had a chance to give their feedback in relation to the annual statistics data collection as it stands and how it could be improved.

7. The Equine Crisis & Contingency Planning – status update & discussion

It was decided to move this agenda item forward to ensure the speakers attending the meeting had adequate time to do their presentations to all attending the meeting.

NDB started the discussion by highlighting how pleased he was with the ideas that had been generated at the meeting in 2012 at RSPCA, Gonsal Farm. Some of the ideas had been utilised during recent months and some had not. NDB noted the need for owner responsibility. JA gave all present a brief overview of the work that the EHWSC had been involved in. JA informed all of the work currently being progressed, the upcoming meetings arranged and the difficulties they were facing when dealing with DEFRA. One of the main issues the industry is

struggling with its ownership and without being able to prove the ownership of a horse then the situation is only going to get worse. DEFRA are very unwilling to provide any more funding to sort the issue out. KT asked if there was any possibility of funding for additional microchip readers as this would really assist and JA responded that sadly no extra funding would be available and she recognises the industry is in need of enforcers to enforce but there is not additional assistance available. NDB added that luckily so far there had been no need to cull large numbers of horses but that may change as new cases were still being brought forward on a regular basis. NDB felt the current problem was not yet near the end and he also added that he felt the general public were still unaware of the increasing problem. DB informed all at the meeting that he knew of one case of up to 200 equines that were about to surface. NDB added that this was just one example of large cases that were still coming. NDB also explained to those present how the LA had been working in relation to euthanasia – so far the LA's have been taking responsibility for the euthanasing of horses in their care, they are first making sure they have investigated every avenue possible in trying to find new homes for the horses but if no home is found in the set timescale then their only option left, due to limited funding, is euthanasia. LA's are finding this incredibly distressing no matter how essential and to date news of this is being kept out of the press but as numbers increase the press may get hold of this information. JA highlighted to all present that unfortunately the current government don't want to bring in any new legislation during their term unless there is one going out that needs replacing. The best step forward for the equine industry would be to achieve some new legislation but as an industry we need some really good arguments to get them to even consider new legislation. JA added that she didn't feel the government's approach was logical but that's how it stood. NDB noted that he felt additional training for LA's could be beneficial and could assist in them then being more knowledgeable in assessing horses that come into their care which in turn could help rehome more than they are at present. GS raised a point regarding advertising of horses and her website 'Equestrian Needs' – Gwen felt that tools such as her site would give Charities and extra outlet to advertise their horses to an audience that don't necessarily look to rehome from a charity or sanctuary initially – if more people saw the great choice of horses available from these places then she felt they would rehome rather than to look for a private sale. RE commented that she felt that GS had raised a valid point and that Horses4homes was also another good outlet for charities and sanctuaries to use for horses that they were struggling to find homes for. People don't automatically think of rehoming they often opt for a private sale as they have little knowledge of rehoming. SC informed all present that last year the RSPCA had run a scheme to inform members of the public that they rehomed horses too as not many people outside of the industry knew this. Due to this scheme the number of adoptions increased very significantly because of the extra advertising. SC stated that he felt NEWC members needed to put more effort into the advertising of their rehoming services to increase take up of horses looking for homes. SC noted that the general public were often unaware that horses from Charities and sanctuaries are often of much better quality than some of those for sale privately.

8. Speaker - Professor Jacqueline Matthews – ‘Mitigating dewormer resistance in horses: the way forward’

NDB introduced Professor Jacqui Matthews who then gave her talk to all present. The presentation given was extremely informative and at the end questions were taken from the membership. After the questions NDB thanked Jacqui for attending on behalf of NEWC and all present at the meeting.

9. Speaker – Natalie Sim – ‘Awareness and Attitude of the Equine Industry Towards an Unwanted Horse Population in the UK’

NDB introduced Natalie Sim who then gave her talk to all present. The presentation given was very valid given the current climate in the equine industry and at the end questions were taken from the membership. After the questions NDB thanked Natalie for attending on behalf of NEWC and all present at the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

Due to presentations over-running AOB's had to be postponed to allow attendees at the meeting enough time to travel home.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The meeting finished at 4.05pm